

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01
CPR-01 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 ARAE-00 /066 W
-----071402Z 103433 /65

R 062153Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6104
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
473 53/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 2970
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N S I A L SAN JOSE 0088

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS
SUBJECT: GONZALO FACIO DROPS OUT OF PRESIDENTIAL RACE - WILL RETURN
TO FOREIGN MINISTRY

REF: SAN JOSE 0075

1. SUMMARY: FACIO ANNOUNCED JAN. 5 THAT MONEY PROBLEMS HAVE FORCED HIM OUT OF PRESIDENTIAL RACE, AND THAT HE WILL SOON RETURN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE IS NOW SUPPORTING CANDIDACY OF EX-PARTY SECRETARY LUIS ALBERTO MONGE. END SUMMARY.
2. GONZALO FACIO ATTRIBUTED MONEY PROBLEMS TO HIS DECISION, WHICH HE ANNOUNCED JAN. 5, TO DROP OUT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. FACIO SAID HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO GO INTO PERSONAL DEBT FOR THE \$250,000 MORE HE CALCULATED WOULD BE NEEDED TO CARRY ON HIS CAMPAIGN.
3. AS EXPECTED, FACIO ANNOUNCED THAT ODUBER HAD ASKED
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HIM TO RETURN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. FACIO SAID HE HAD SOME UNFINISHED POLITICAL BUSINESS TO CONDUCT PRIOR TO HIS RETURN, WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO BE IN A FEW WEEKS.

4. MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT THAT FACIO WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON JAN. 9 TO MEET WITH CARTER ADMINISTRATION

OFFICIALS. FACIO DID NOT TALK ABOUT THIS TRAVEL IN THE WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. THE SURPRISE ASPECT OF FACIO'S STATEMENT WAS HIS WARM ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR CANDIDACY OF LUIS ALBERTO MONGE, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "LIKE ME, POLITICALLY BALANCED." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, FACIO NOTED THAT HIS SUPPORT OF MONGE DOES NOT MEAN THAT JOSE FIGUERES - WHO SUPPORTED FACIO - IS IN FAVOR OF MONGE. FACIO ALSO STATED, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT HE COULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENTIAL SLOT WITH MONGE SINCE THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES SUCH ASPIRANT CABINET MEMBERS TO RESIGN FROM GOVERNMENT AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO ELECTION - AND FACIO ALREADY SAID HE IS GOING BACK TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. INITIAL REACTIONS TO FACIO'S ANNOUNCEMENT ARE PREDICTABLE. MONGE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AND SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT THE ENDORSEMENT. GARRON SAID FACIO QUIT THE CAMPAIGN BECAUSE HE LACKED SUPPORT, NOT MONEY. THE REACTION OF FIGUERES, WHO WAS ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING FOR FACIO, HAS YET TO BE HEARD.

7. COMMENT: FACIO MADE HIS DECISION TO ABANDON THE CAMPAIGN AND RETURN TO HIS FIRST LOVE, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, EARLIER THAN MANY THOUGHT. IN RECENT WEEKS, HOWEVER, HE VOICED A DESIRE TO GET OUT OF THE RAT-RACE, AND HE CLAIMED MONEY PROBLEMS. HIS CHALLENGE TO FELLOW

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PRE-CANDIDATE GARRON FOR A PRE-PRIMARY (76 SAN JOSE 5947) WAS AN EFFORT TO MAKE A GRACIOUS EXIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANJO00088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: SAN JOSE
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Image Path:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAN JOSE 75
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3651823
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GONZALO FACIO DROPS OUT OF PRESIDENTIAL RACE - WILL RETURN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS, (FACIO, GONZALO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/606eb8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009